

Media ownership rules should be restored to the pre-1996 guidelines. By caving to the corporate consolidation interests who have no interest in the vital role the media plays in democracy, you ignore both the job loss in the industry that consolidation has caused and the huge loss in quality programming on the airwaves. As an avid radio listener since the age of 9, I have found very little programming of interest on commercial radio stations since the late 1990s. I believe this is because radio station ownership has been consolidated into fewer and fewer hands. I gave up on commercial radio after hearing the same forty songs in rotation day after day and talkshows that are more interested in reinforcing a viewpoint than providing a forum for discussion. The airwaves are owned by the public. It appears that fact gets lost in the discussion of corporate profits and their "rights". When it comes to a vital mechanism of democracy, the broad spectrum of citizens' viewpoints, tastes and interests must be reflected in their local media. This does not happen when stations across the country play the same songs over and over, as I have noticed in my travels. By forsaking rules that safeguard independent media, the FCC is sacrificing local jobs and income and the health of our democracy for the benefit of a few loud corporate voices in an industry that showed more vitality without them. I urge you to reinstate pre-1996 media ownership rules that are in the best interests of our democracy, culture and economic well-being.